

PCT/IT2004/000192
Mario MANZONE et al.
Attorney Docket No. 09952.0007

**ANNEXES TO THE
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(ARTICLE 34 AMENDMENTS)**

**Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Sir:

REQUEST FOR SUBSTITUTION OF REPLACEMENT SHEETS

Please substitute the attached replacement pages 11-13 of the claims of the Article 34 Amendments for pages 11-14 of the claims in the enclosed as-filed PCT Application. It is respectfully requested that the claims on replacement pages 11-13 be examined during examination of the patent application. Claims 1-9 are currently pending.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 17, 2005

By: 

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EFC/FPD/gah

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JC06 Rec'd PCT/PTO 17 OCT 2005

NEW CLAIMS

1. Station (1) for storing and refilling with ink a cartridge (2) of a printhead, comprising:

a container (4) with a collection chamber (18) containing a predetermined quantity (H) of ink (17) for refilling completely said cartridge (2) a plurality of times, said collection chamber (18) being arranged adjacently to a bottom wall (6) of said container (4), said bottom wall (6) serving as a support platform (6a) of said container (4) on a horizontal plane (9) so as to define a vertical operating position (P1) of said station (1), said container (4) having an external shape defining at least one side wall (8, 8a, 8b, 8c, 8d) of said container (4) and also being provided with a housing (10), attached to a top wall (7) of said container (4) and suitable for accommodating said cartridge (2),

said station (1) further comprising refilling means (24, 26) at least partially immersed in said predetermined quantity of ink (17), when said station (1) is arranged in said vertical operating position (P1), and suitable for cooperating with said cartridge (2) for transferring said ink from said collection chamber (18) to said cartridge (2),

characterized in that a back-flow compartment (45) is provided, surrounding said housing (10) and communicating freely with said collection chamber (18) for receiving the ink contained in said collection chamber (18) when said station (1) is turned on from said vertical operating position (P1),

said back-flow compartment (45) and said collection chamber (18) having their respective volumes proportionate in such a way that, when said station (1) is

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tilted from said vertical operating position (P1) and placed, along any side wall (8, 8a, 8b, 8c, 8d) of said container (4), in a tilted position (P2) on said horizontal plane (9), or when said station (1) is turned upside down with respect to said vertical operating position (P1), said predetermined quantity of ink (17) flows back from said collection chamber (18) to said back-flow compartment (45), whereby said refilling means (24, 26) emerge from said ink (17) and any leakage of ink through said refilling means is avoided.

2. Station according to claim 1, characterized in that said back-flow compartment (45) has a volume at least equal to the volume of said predetermined quantity of ink (17).

3. Station according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said refilling means (24, 26) are disposed in a central position with respect to said bottom wall (6) and symmetrical with respect to the side walls (8a, 8b, 8c, 8d) of said container (4).

4. Station according to any one of the previous claims, characterized in that said refilling means comprise an elongated capillary element (26), passing through a bottom wall (11) of said housing (10) and having a lower end (28) facing said bottom wall (6) and an upper end (27) suitable for being inserted in said cartridge (2) for transferring said ink (17) through capillarity from said container (4) to said cartridge (2).

5. Station according to claim 4, characterized in that said capillary element (26) is inserted in an impermeable, tube-like element (24), attached to said housing (10), and extending in said collection chamber (18), perpendicularly to said bottom wall (6), said tube-like element (24) also being disposed in a position that is central with

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respect to said bottom wall (6) and symmetrical with respect to the side walls (8a, 8b, 8c, 8d) of said container (4), so that said capillary element (26) is not covered by said ink (17) when said container (4) is tilted laterally, or turned upside down.

6. Station according to claim 5, characterized in that said tube-like element (24) consists of a rigid pipe, attached to said bottom wall (11) of said housing (10).

7. Station according to claim 5, characterized in that said tube-like element (24) consists of a rigid and impermeable sheath, attached tight to said bottom wall (11).

8. Station as in any of the claims from 4 to 7, characterized in that said lower end (28) of said capillary element (26) is placed at a distance of not more than about 5 cm from said bottom wall (6).

9. Station according to any one of the previous claims, characterized in that said container (4) comprises a compensating device (34) for balancing differences in hydrostatic pressure between said collection chamber (18) and said cartridge (2), said compensating device comprising a lamina valve (36), attached against a boss (32) of the bottom wall (11) of said housing (10), said lamina (36) comprising a flexible portion (38), suitable for elastically assuming one or the other of two positions, at opposite ends with respect to a rest position, when said lamina (36) is urged by the difference in hydrostatic pressure between the cartridge (2) and the collection chamber (18), or vice versa.

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